

have the right to stay with their current doctor and their hospital. There is no credibility gap in the Republican plan. We delivered growth for nutrition programs. We will preserve and protect Medicare.

#### HOW MANY SENIOR CITIZENS WILL THE REPUBLICANS ARREST TODAY?

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, after watching what happened in this House yesterday, I feel like taking this well and yelling at the other side: "Hey, hey, what do you say, how many seniors are you Republicans going to arrest today?"

This is supposed to be the people's House. I was totally outraged that people in wheelchairs, that seniors who were frail, that are absolutely no physical threat to anyone, are arrested and taken away because they are asking questions of the people's representatives; imagine, how dare they? That is wrong.

I hope the leadership on the other side of the aisle apologizes to parents. I stand here in the name of my parents, my grandparents, and everyone else. That is not the America they fought for. I think we all ought to stand firm and say, "We want an apology, and we want the elderly of America to know they are welcome here, and they are able to ask questions of elected leaders here, and they should be able to get answers from elected leaders here about this wonderful thing they are supposedly doing for them, not to them."

□ 1030

#### MEDICARE SHIM-SHAM

(Mr. HASTERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I have sat here this morning and listened to Member after Member on the other side trying to shim-sham the American people of what happened as far as Medicare. Well, I guess when you do not have a Medicare plan, I guess when you do not have an idea, you try to distort the issue. As a matter of fact, what you try to do is take some poor, innocent, old people and use them as your sham to bring them as a stage prop, to use the director of Information Services for the National Council of Senior Citizens, who gets almost \$70 million of their \$74 million budget out of the taxpayers' pocket. I guess that is what you do to misinform the American people, to try to distort the issues.

Mr. Speaker, what we are trying to do in Medicare is to preserve the Medicare system that the President's own trust fund said is going broke. What we are trying to do is give the people of

this country a choice and to preserve a system, because they deserve a better way.

#### REPUBLICANS RAMMING THROUGH MEDICARE PLAN

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, three decades ago the Democrats gave American seniors peace of mind when they created Medicare. Medicare led to a 50-percent drop in the number of seniors living at the poverty level. It led to a 50-percent increase in the number of seniors that have health care. While in control of Congress for 30 years, the Democrats gave life and protection to Medicare.

Yesterday the Republicans arrested seniors that wanted to listen and learn more about Medicare at some of the hearings and meetings that are taking place here. The Democrats giveth, and the Republicans taketh away.

The new majority is ramming through a plan that needlessly slashes \$270 billion and doubles Medicare premiums, and those additional premiums are not even going into the Medicare trust fund. The Republicans say they are saving Medicare because it is in a crisis. I say, the only crisis to Medicare is that the Republicans are in power.

#### TAX AND SPEND OUTDATED

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I stand here this morning in shocked amazement when I ponder the word "responsibility." I have just listened to most of the people on that side of the aisle stand up here and speak. As I look through this National Taxpayers Union Foundation rating of those that spend, spend, spend, and tax, tax, tax, almost every one of those on the other side who have stood up to speak appear on this list as the biggest taxers, the biggest spenders in this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, when I came to this Congress 18 years ago, I came here as a small businessman with the responsibility to meet a payroll for 100 different families. I still have this perspective. I received a phone call sitting in my office at 6:30 this morning from a senior citizen from my district and she said, "JERRY, you have a responsibility to do what is right, to protect the Medicare system."

That is what we are here today to do, to keep it from going bankrupt. My colleagues know it is going bankrupt under its present course. We need to be responsible on this floor. We need to give people the freedom to choose their own doctors, and not to force some bureaucratically approved HMO down on them. Our program gives Americans this choice and saves the system from

bankruptcy. My colleagues better start thinking about the word, "responsibility" because people are not going to continue to buy this tax, tax, tax, spend, spend, spend attitude around here any longer.

#### BACK ROOM DEALS FOR THE WEALTHY

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, 2 days ago the American Medical Association cut a back room deal with Speaker GINGRICH for them for \$15 billion out of the Medicare fund because the AMA contributes \$1 million to Republican political campaigns. Yesterday an elderly woman came into the Committee on Commerce on which I sit and simply stepped forward, said she wanted to talk about Medicare and was told she could not speak and then she was arrested, taken out of the room with a dozen other senior citizens, handcuffed, fingerprinted at the police station and booked.

Think about it. Lobbyists in the back room cutting a deal with NEWT GINGRICH, senior citizens not even allowed in the committee room simply because they want to talk about Medicare, and they are arrested. Lobbyists in the back room cutting deals with the Speaker, multi-billion-dollar deals, senior citizens in the hearing room arrested because they wanted to talk about something that mattered every day in their lives, all in the name of tax cuts for the wealthy. It is wrong, Mr. Speaker.

#### THE POWER TO CHOOSE

(Mr. LINDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but respond to the comments of the gentleman who just spoke before me because I happened to be in that room two nights ago and what he said was simply wrong. I know it is against the rules to call people liars in here, so I shall not do that. I will just say that everything he said is wrong.

Doctors in this country under the new Medicare plan are going to give back in lost revenues about \$26.1 billion. They are not happy with that, but they are happy with the overall thrust of the bill, which will, for the first time in 30 years, bring market forces to play for seniors just as well as it has for other people in the health care arena. People who want to keep their own system in Medicare as they have right now have that right. No one is going to be forced to change. But if you want to try something different, something that all the rest of America has been using in the last 20 years in changes in health care delivery, whether it is